

MODERN TREATMENT YEAR BOOK, 1952. Edited by Sir Cecil Wakeley.  
(Pp. viii + 360, plates 31. 17s. 6d.). London : Medical Press in Circular,  
1952.

THE Modern Treatment Year Book, 1952, contains forty articles, ranging from the modern treatment of hæmorrhoids to skin diseases in children. While this book is "specially designed to keep the practitioner informed on the practical application of the latest research," there is much in it outside the scope of the practitioner's work. For example, there is a good deal of detailed surgical technique, which appears to be unnecessary in a book of this kind. On the other hand, not enough is made sometimes of the practical applications of recent advances. For instance, in the article on ulcerative colitis, little is said about the management of patients with an ileostomy, or is there any guidance for the practitioner when he comes up against many of the actual difficulties. Because of these points, much more could be made of this book to keep it in line with the publishers' intention.

Nevertheless, there are many interesting and informative articles, which will help the medical profession to keep abreast of modern teaching and thought, and it is to books like this that many will turn to guide them through the volume of recent publications.

D. A. D. M.

CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS. By Brice R. Clarke,  
M.D. (Pp. viii + 288; figs. 13, tables 53. 32s. 6d.). Edinburgh : E. & S.  
Livingstone, 1952.

TUBERCULOSIS is one of the most important diseases in medical practice. To know and understand it is almost the beginning and end of medicine. Dr. Clarke has produced a valuable monograph, which encompasses all aspects from the casual organism and diagnosis to the prevention and treatment of this scourge of the human race.

The volume is comprehensive in its survey, with emphasis on the aspects of cause and a valuable appreciation of the role of prevention. The natural history of the disease is admirably set out, with useful instruction on the various stages of development of the pathological processes which arise in the course of tuberculous infection. The chapters on rehabilitation and B.C.G. vaccination are excellent, and the role of mass radiography in discovering the early unrecognised source of infection has its proper place.

This book is recommended to those who seek an up-to-date review of the subject, and should appeal to general practitioner and specialist alike.

F. M. B. A.

THE FOOT. By Norman C. Lake, M.D., M.S., D.Sc., F.R.C.S. 4th edition.  
(Pp. vi + 466; figs. 166. 25s.). London : Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1952.

THE aim of the author is to deal with the evolution, anatomy and physiology of the foot, and to present those diseases of the foot which come within the purview of the practitioner and general surgeon.

The fourth edition is now in print, which in itself is sufficient indication of the popularity and usefulness of the book.

There is much of interest in the chapters on the evolution and development of the foot, and on the influence of civilisation—indeed these are presented as ætiological factors in the production of the common foot ailments. The development of footwear throughout the ages is adequately described, and the influence of the high-heeled shoes of ladies—from their introduction in the sixteenth century by Catherine de Medici—on foot complaints well presented.

The orthopædic surgeon may be disappointed in the sections on surgical treatment, and he may well feel that the description of the use of the Thomas' wrench and the placing of operative incisions on the medial side of the great toe might usefully have been left out.

The author does not claim, however, that this is a text-book on major orthopædic surgery, and these minor objections do not in any way depreciate a work which is interesting and generally useful to the medical profession as a whole.

R. J. W. W.